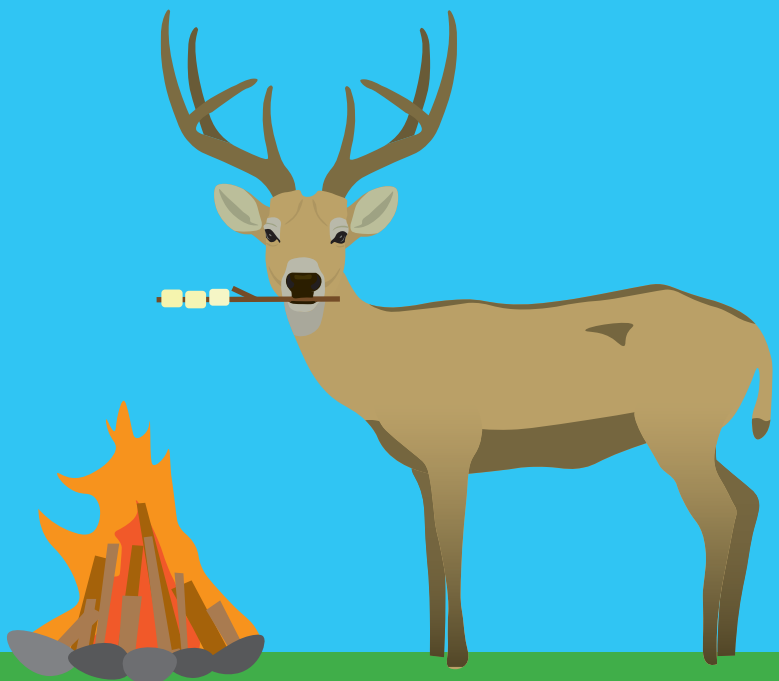


# MAGDALEN COLLEGE

ALTERNATIVE  
PROSPECTUS

A hand is holding a small, detailed model of a Gothic church tower, likely Magdalen Tower. The model is made of a light-colored material, possibly wood or plaster, and shows intricate architectural details like arched windows and pinnacles. The background is a solid blue color. In the lower half, there is a larger, faded, golden-brown image of the same tower, creating a sense of scale and perspective. The text 'ALTERNATIVE PROSPECTUS' is written diagonally across the lower right, with 'ALTERNATIVE' in a smaller font above 'PROSPECTUS'.

KEEP OFF  
THE  
GRASS



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# LIVING

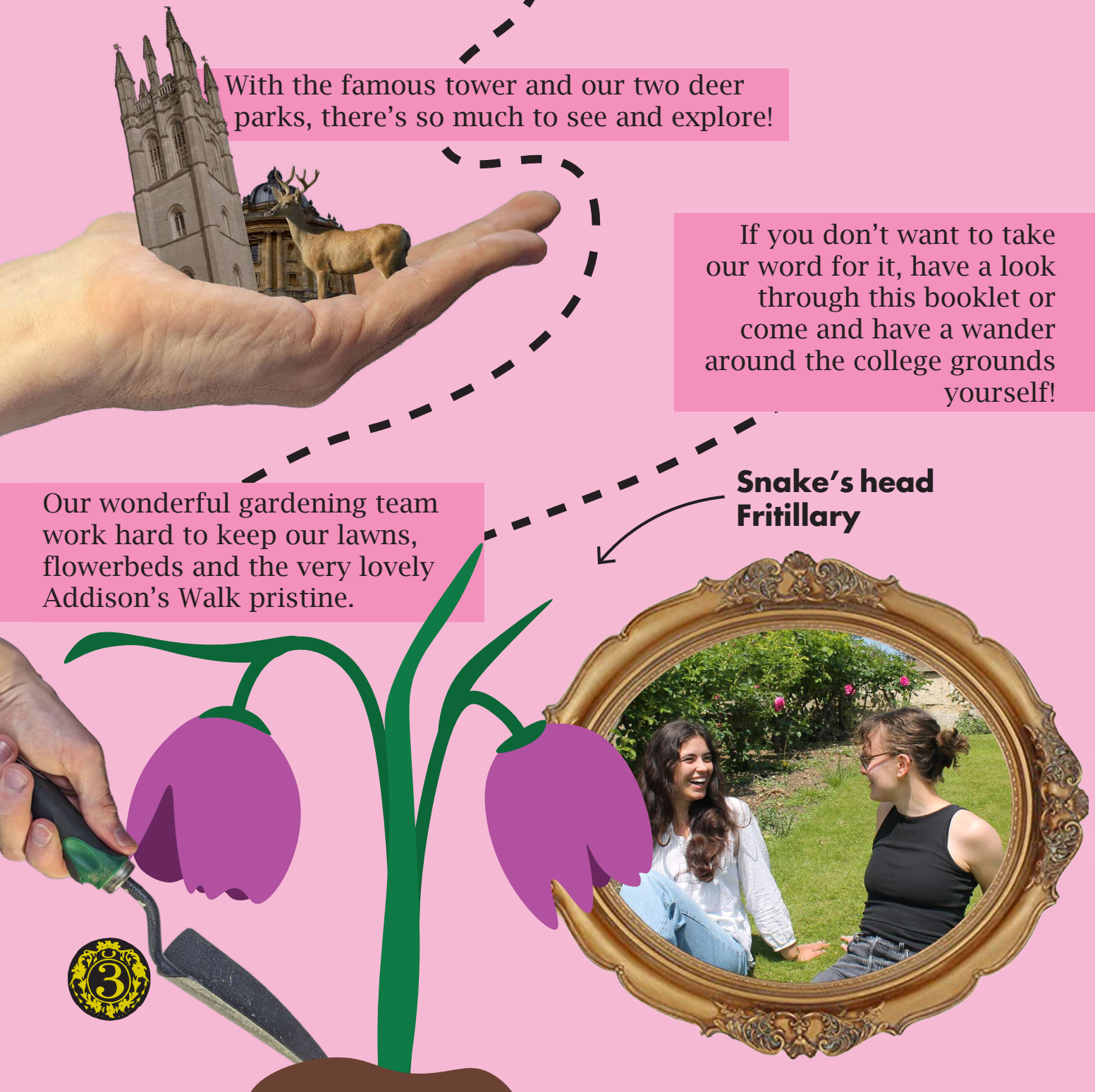
Magdalen (in our opinion at least) is one of the most beautiful Oxford colleges.

With the famous tower and our two deer parks, there's so much to see and explore!

If you don't want to take our word for it, have a look through this booklet or come and have a wander around the college grounds yourself!

Our wonderful gardening team work hard to keep our lawns, flowerbeds and the very lovely Addison's Walk pristine.

**Snake's head  
Fritillary**



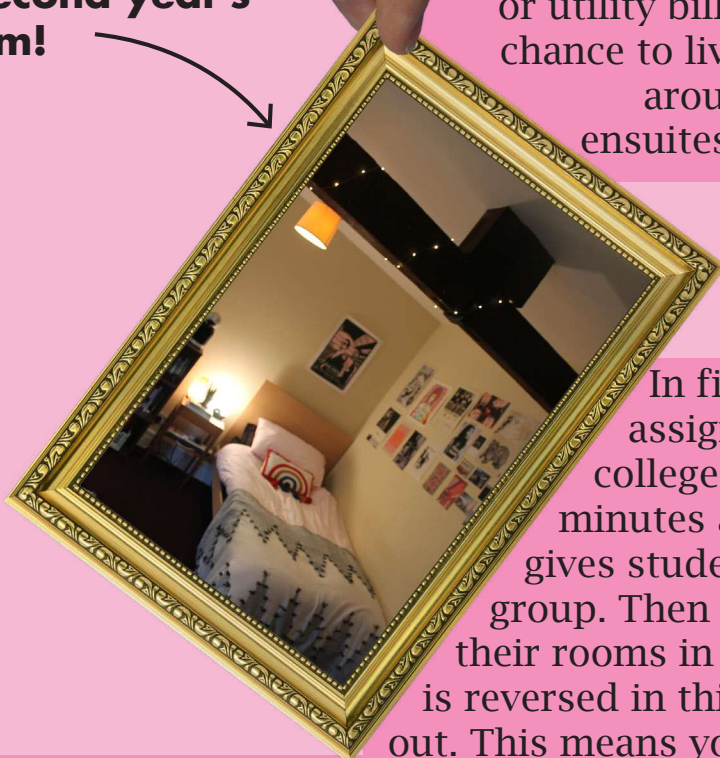


# HIGH STREET

Being on the High Street, Magdalen is very close to the centre of Oxford, which means you're never too far from a cafe or a shop. However, because it's not directly in the centre, we have tons of green space to explore, access to the river, and we're also very close to other areas of Oxford that are less touristy.

HONEY'S  
OF THE  
HIGH 49

**A second year's room!**



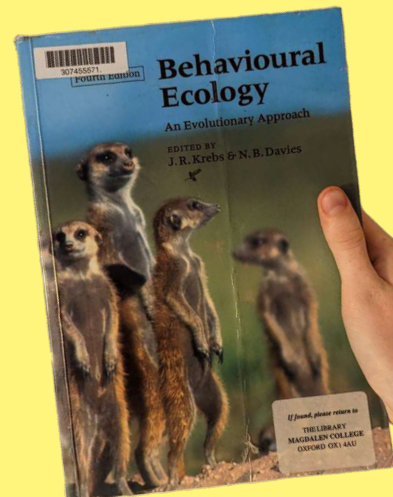
Magdalen guarantees its students accommodation for the whole duration of their undergraduate degree, which is great as it means you avoid any house-hunting or utility bill drama! It also means you get a chance to live in one of the beautiful rooms around college, some of which have ensembles or even living rooms attached.

In first year, rooms are randomly assigned and most are outside of college walls, but no more than 2 minutes away from college. This really gives students a chance to bond as a year group. Then in second year, students pick their rooms in a randomised order, which is reversed in third year so everything evens out. This means you can pick a room based on what matters to you, whether that's a good kitchen, living with friends or a pretty view.

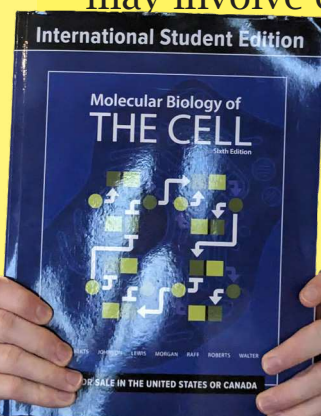


# STUDYING

What makes Oxford (and Cambridge) different from other universities is the tutorial system. Alongside lectures, students here also receive teaching from experts in their field in small groups. This gives students an excellent opportunity to develop an understanding of the content, and we are very lucky to have so many world leading academics here at Magdalen.



Tutorials are normally organised by the college, which means students often have tutoring from the same people throughout their degree. Depending on the course, there may be other types of learning taking place. As well as lectures, the course may involve classes, seminars or labs. These are organised by the department, presenting the opportunity for people on the same course to meet people from other colleges.





Oxford is home to a fair few famous libraries like the Radcliffe Camera and the Bodleian, but colleges have their own onsite libraries too. Magdalen's is called Longwall Library, and it's open 24/7, meaning it's there no matter what time inspiration strikes. There are a few different working spaces, and a great collection of books. The Library Team also doesn't implement any late fees, and are always more than happy to help students out.

→  
**Most textbooks  
are available on  
SOLO**

SOLO

SEARCH OXFORD  
LIBRARIES ONLINE



**Our Longwall  
Library**



Outside of Longwall, all rooms in Magdalen come with desks, and many students like working in their rooms. In the summer term, when students are allowed on the lawns, you can often find lots of students working on picnic blankets on a sunny day. That being said, there's a lot more to Magdalen than all the work - we promise!





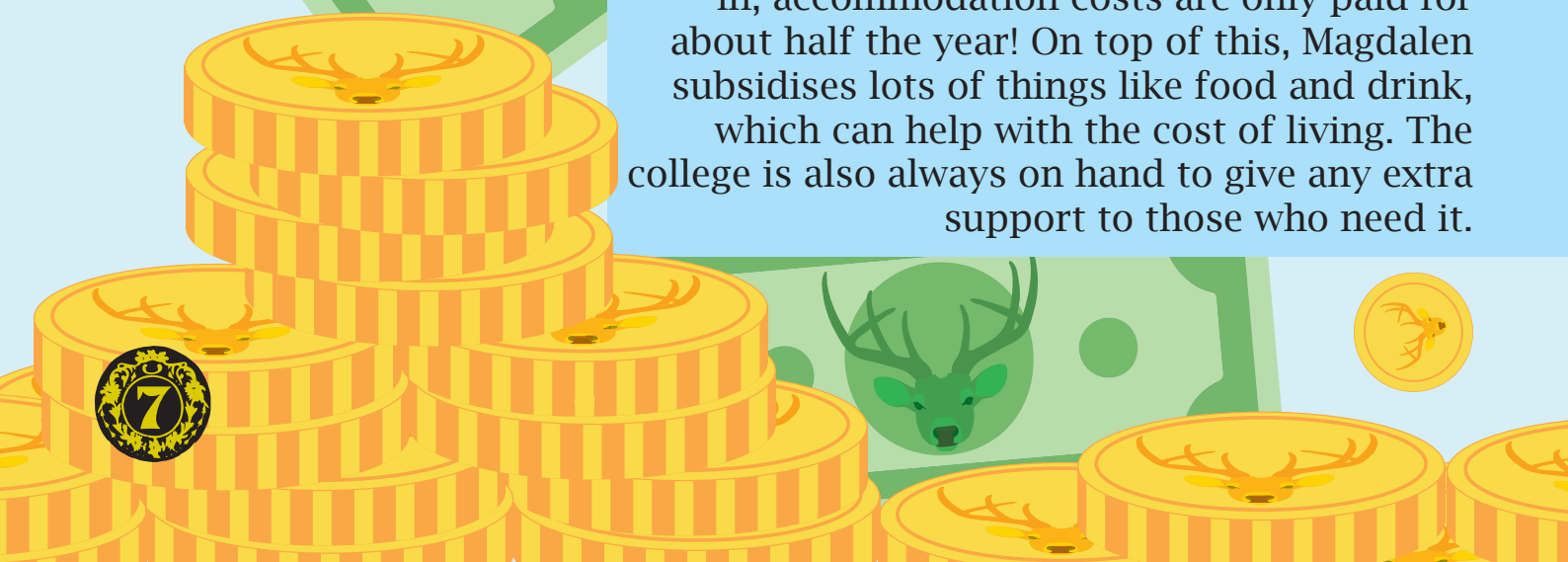
# SPENDING



University can be a very expensive time for students, as for many it's the first time they're in total control of their own finances! However, money should never get in the way of someone's university experience, and Magdalen is committed to providing support for students who need it. There are various funds in place from the government, the university and the college to make sure everyone has equal access to opportunity here.



As the terms here are only 8 weeks long, and students only pay rent when they are moved in, accommodation costs are only paid for about half the year! On top of this, Magdalen subsidises lots of things like food and drink, which can help with the cost of living. The college is also always on hand to give any extra support to those who need it.



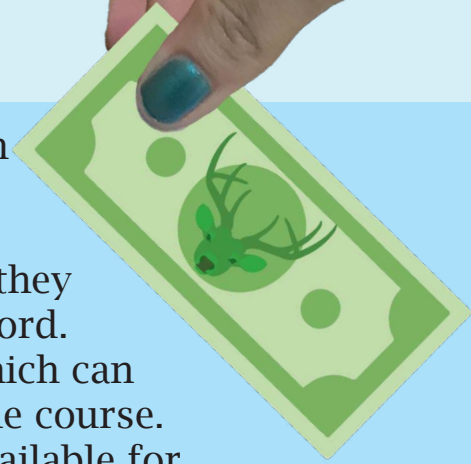
## Magdalen's financial help is one of the best in Oxford!



**So you can spend  
more time  
thinking about this!**



Some of the funding Magdalen offers includes the Student Support Fund, which helps students with living costs, so they can make the most out of Oxford. Students can access grants which can cover any books bought for the course. There is often also funding available for travel or research related to your degree (choose your modules wisely...)



Furthermore, the Junior Common Room (JCR) Committee, which represents undergraduate students at Magdalen, is also able to provide funding for lots of things. There are all kinds of funds available, from ones for college events, to new equipment, to personal creative projects or sporting hobbies. There's also specific support for items which aid students with their disabilities, gender expression or cultural events!



# EATING

Magdalen offers both catered and self-catered dining options, which is great as it means you don't have to choose between the two! For catered dining you have the option of Hall, which operates a bit like a school canteen, or the Old Kitchen Bar (OKB), a cafe where you can build your own sandwich, salad or jacket potato. Both are open nearly every day and are cheaper than a cafe or restaurant.



←  
**Example  
OKB Salad**



The other catered dining option available is a formal. These happen four times a week, and have to be booked in advance. They are a little bit more expensive than a normal Hall meal as the price includes a three course meal served by candlelight. Formals are one of those slightly odd Oxford traditions, but they are a great excuse to get dressed up and catch up with friends. You can also bring your family or friends from home if they visit!



← **"Meet in the  
OKB?"**





Shared kitchens are also provided for all accommodation in Magdalen, though the size and facilities vary slightly. This means it's possible for students to brush up on their culinary skills during their time here, especially with Magdalen being so close to so many supermarkets (there is literally a Sainsbury's underneath the main first year accommodation).



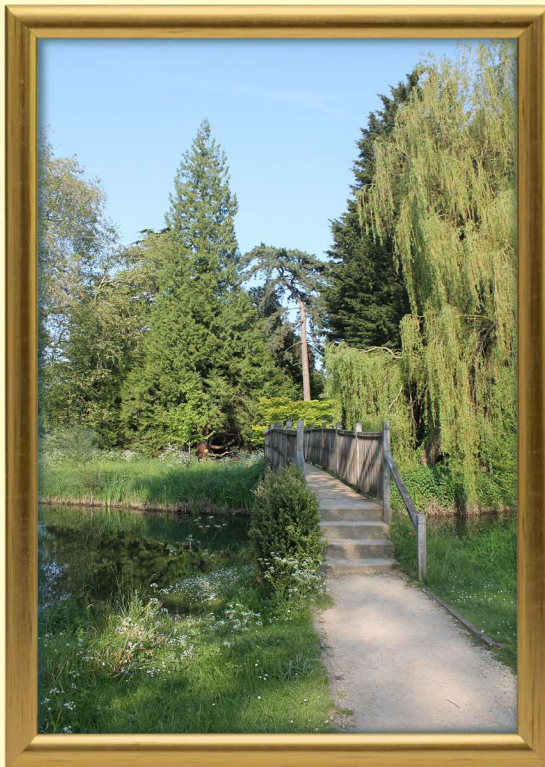
**Perfect scenery  
for a meal!** →



Oxford is also home to loads of amazing cafes and restaurants, with some student favourites being very close to Magdalen. There are, of course, all the usual chains, but also plenty of independent businesses really worth checking out. Magdalen's proximity to both the High Street and Cowley Road means that any food fanatic will never be too far from discovering a new favourite, and current students are always more than happy to give recommendations.

# RELAXING

The workload here can be quite intense, but luckily there's plenty of ways to unwind. We've already spoken about all the beautiful green space at Magdalen, and Addison's Walk is a particularly popular retreat from the library. The Library Team also sometimes organise refreshments or mindfulness sessions in the foyer to draw everyone away from their desks.



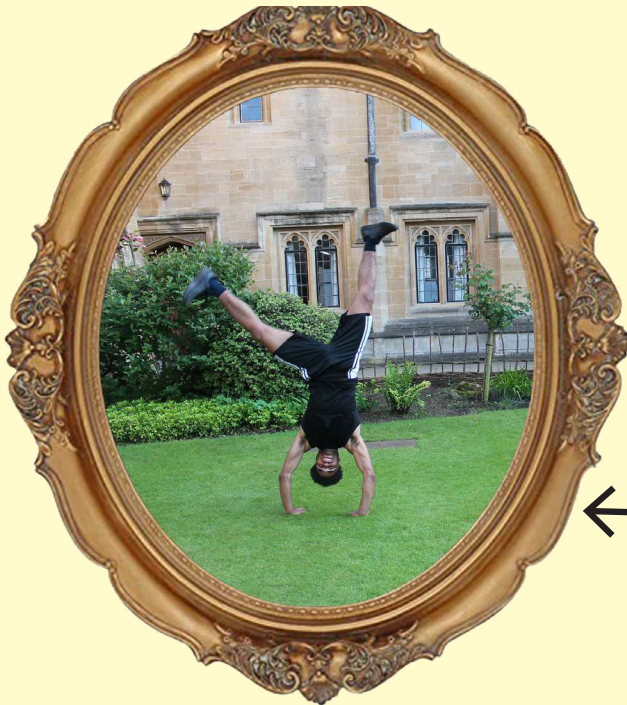
← **The bridge to the Fellow's Gardens**

Magdalen also has a very dedicated welfare team. The Welfare Dean is responsible for the overall welfare provision at Magdalen, but has plenty of support from other people. The college has both a college counsellor and a college mentor who can offer students advice on everything from work to friendship drama. Another excellent source of welfare at Magdalen is Spangle, our President's cat who you can sign up to sit with and stroke!

Welfare provision is also the job of the Junior Common Room (JCR) committee, with three students who are elected to hold welfare positions. This welfare team can offer one-on-one support to students who would like it, but also do plenty of other things. They provide finalist packs to people stressed out by exams, and also organise loads of college-wide welfare events (see: free food).







← **No matter how you like to relax, it feels better on our pristine lawns!**



↑ **Naughty Badger repellent**

All in all, downtime is a very important aspect of life at Magdalen, whether that means going for a walk through the grounds or going to a welfare event and discussing work stress over a cup of tea. There's a bit of workaholic stereotype associated with Oxford, and whilst the students here do work very hard, there's also lots of ways they can relax. Additionally, there are also loads of extracurriculars or social events to get involved in!





# SOCIALISING

The college system lends itself to a sense of community, something which is really comforting during an experience as daunting as moving to university. Magdalen has a large student body, meaning there are plenty of people to meet and befriend. In Freshers' Week, the Freshers' Reps work hard to organise events to help students mingle.

↓ JCR  
Brunch



Some of the ways Magdalen students enjoy spending time with their friends include punting around Addison's Walk (yes, punting is as ridiculous as it looks), or hanging out in the Junior Common Room (yes, this phrase also refers to an actual room, it's all very confusing). There are also loads of student societies associated with both the college and the wider university, which are a great way to meet people. These societies also organise tons of fun events!



← Galentine's Party



Our OKB is also a bar, which is great for chill socials or conversations with friends. The drinks here are a lot cheaper than outside of college! Every other Saturday, the OKB is home to the BOP (Big Organised Party). BOPs are college-wide costume parties which can best be described as somewhere between a house party and a Year 6 Disco. They are very silly, as you can probably tell from the photos, but genuinely so much fun.



↑  
**Our  
Halloween BOP**

The JCR Committee also organises other events, such as the delicious JCR brunch on Sunday mornings, or the very popular OKB Karaoke Nights. We have an annual sports day with Magdalene College Cambridge which is often a highlight of the social calendar. Overall, there is a very active social scene at Magdalen, despite what you might have heard...





# EXERCISING

Sport is another big part of life for many students at Magdalen. The college has quite a few different sports teams, all of which are open to beginners and receive funding from the college for kit, games and sometimes even coaching. Magdalen is a great place to take up a new sport like rowing or lacrosse or continue an old hobby like football or tennis.







←  
**Magdalen  
tennis courts**



At Magdalen, we have access to our own sports grounds, which is where the teams practice, but they're also always open to any student who wants to go and play! In the summer term, students get access to the six grass tennis courts here, and plenty of people can often be found improving their serves down there. The students who are good enough (the standard isn't incredibly high), might make the team and compete against other colleges.

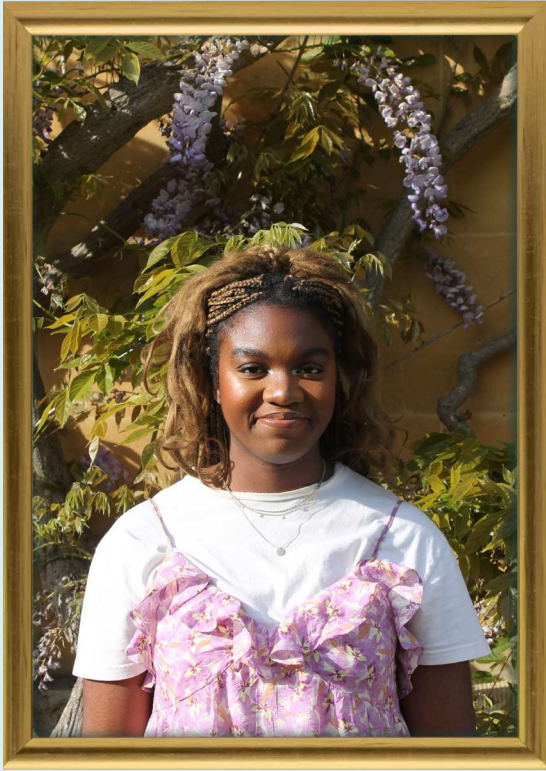


**Punting,  
anyone?**

Magdalen also gives all undergraduates free membership to the University Gym, which is conveniently very close to Magdalen. This gym membership gives you access to a wide range of facilities, including a pool. Matches and tournaments between colleges are also often held here, which are great fun to watch. There is also a free gym onsite, underneath some of the accommodation, but this gym is reserved for the Boat Club (the rowing team).

If sport isn't your thing, there are other, more relaxed ways to exercise at Magdalen. Lots of people like to walk or run around Addison's Walk, or perhaps venture to Christ Church Meadow which is just across the road. There's also loads of onsite bike storage for students who like cycling, which many students do, as it makes getting around the city so easy!

# DAY IN THE LIFE



**Anita, *Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)***

Hi, I'm Anita Okunde, a 1st-year PPEist. In order to get the most out of my first year in terms of meeting new people and trying out different interests of mine, I have been a part of many societies including many committees. One committee that you will see me around often is the JCR as your RaEM rep! Alongside this I am a human with friends (surprisingly) so also spend a lot of time socialising with my friends and doing things I enjoy.

As someone who can't work past 6 pm, my day starts a lot earlier, usually at 5 am. This usually starts with worship and prayer as a Christian and putting the day in God's hands. Then I'm off to the gym! My gym babe

chronicle started at university, and it is a great way to have me hyped for the day.

After breakfast, I start my work at 9 am which usually includes readings, problem sheets, and essays until about 4pm and two hours a day for admin for all the societies I'm part of. This could be for sending emails for events, sorting out spreadsheets, having calls to finalise certain things, or putting together documents for specific things. This ensures that I am on top of all things.

In the evenings I like to indulge in a more social activity, sometimes it's chilling in the JCR with friends, attending meetings for various committees, attending debates at the Oxford Union, going to networking events in London or going to club nights that may be particularly fun. This, allows me to have a good distinction of work-life balance needed to maintain the Oxford work ethic.

On most days I'm asleep by 9/10 pm but if I have had a particularly wild night I factor that in for when I'll wake up the next day and tend to plan them for days where I have less to do.







## Esele, *Medicine*

My name is Esele and I am going into my third year as a medical student at Magdalen. Outside of Oxford, I live in Kettering, a small town in the East Midlands. I come from an ethnic minority background (Nigerian/British heritage) and attended state school before university.

An average day of my life consists of waking up at around 8am, and rushing off to lectures which start at 9am, around a 10-15 minute walk away from college at the Medical Sciences Teaching Centre. Medicine is variable in terms of the day to day schedule with between 1 and 4 lectures in a day totalling between 5-10 in any given week. Additionally, the medical school

provides mandatory practicals, covering areas of medicine such as anatomy, physiology and histology, usually 2 to 3 times a week. These tend to run between 10 and 1, thus finishing just in time for lunch at the OKB (the college bar, turns into a sandwich bar at lunch time) or Najar's Place (a stall serving Lebanese wraps, only a short walk from the science buildings).

After lunch, there is often opportunity to participate in sports. I am an avid sportsman, although not at a high enough standard to play at university level, therefore I participate in a variety of college sports such as football and lacrosse. College sport is an excellent opportunity to get involved and try something new without any commitment or pressure. I tend to play football matches between 1 and 3 times a week, usually around 2pm after morning lectures.

After sports fixtures, or other afternoon activities such as the gym or playing pool in the JCR, I go to the library in order to work on essays which have been set by my medicine tutors. Magdalen is very lucky to host its own 24-hour library, with 4 different floors, known as Longwall library, which is like a second home.

In the evenings, after dinner at around 6pm, which I normally eat in Hall with friends, I will either go back to the library to work on essays, or go to either the OKB, or the local Wetherspoons for cheap drinks. This purely depends on how close to my essay deadline I am. If in a few days, I will likely be out in the evenings and go for a night out at the popular clubs ATIK and Bridge. If my deadline is tomorrow... or yesterday, I am likely to take a night in to complete my essays.



# FAQs

## Is Magdalen's student body diverse? *Adithya, Medicine*

With the many stereotypes surrounding Magdalen and Oxford in general, I was quite certain that I wasn't going to fit in and wouldn't find anyone with a similar background to me. However I soon realised this wasn't the case. With a large student body, you are guaranteed to meet people from all walks of life: from people around the UK, to around the world! One of my favourite things about Magdalen is that I have had the opportunity to speak with people of different backgrounds, which has enabled me to explore and appreciate many different cultures. To promote inclusivity, there are also diversity reps (including LGBTQ+ and RaEM) that host several socials and programmes. This includes weekly Tuesdays drinks and the RaEM (Racial and Ethnic Minorities) parent scheme, which allows for freshers to be partnered up with older students from similar backgrounds. Furthermore, there are also many formals which celebrate festivals of different cultures including (but not limited to!) Chinese New Year, Diwali and Eid!



## How easy did you find it to settle in? *Mia, English*

It's always going to be daunting to move away to university but Oxford's prestige can make it feel like an especially worrying prospect. I was really nervous before I came that I wouldn't make friends, would feel homesick all the time, and that it wouldn't feel like home, but Magdalen is super friendly and I'm so glad to be here. The college and the city are gorgeous, there's so much to do and see and keep you



busy, and even though it took a couple of weeks for me to know my way around and settle in properly, it doesn't take long for it to feel like home.

## What made you choose Magdalen?

*Louis, Biochemistry*

I knew I wanted to apply for Oxford in Sixth Form but was apprehensive of having to choose a college. Luckily Magdalen is one of the colleges involved in The University of Oxford's Regional Outreach Scheme for Yorkshire and the Humber. The Outreach Team from Magdalen came and gave a talk at my sixth form, providing me with lots of information relating to university and encouraging me to attend some online open days to interact with current students.

Magdalen has continued to be excellent at supporting me while at university – financially, personally, and academically. I was also able to come and visit Magdalen with my family and see how much of a gorgeous place to study Magdalen is.



## Do you have time to socialise?

*Oliver, Spanish*

There is so much time to socialise! The great thing about Oxford, especially if you do a humanities degree, is that you have the ability to really build your schedule yourself. As a Spanish student, I only have a couple of prescribed class times a week and lectures that vary and are optional across the year. You are free to arrange times for tutorials that are convenient for you and chose which lectures are most helpful. Outside of that, there are so many great societies and clubs to join and so much free time to spend doing what you like with friends.





## **Resources:**

*Magdalen JCR website* - [magdjcr.co.uk](http://magdjcr.co.uk)

*Magdalen JCR Instagram* - [@discover\\_magdalen](https://www.instagram.com/discover_magdalen)

*Outreach Team* - [outreach@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@magd.ox.ac.uk)

*Admissions Officer* - [admissions@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@magd.ox.ac.uk)

*JCR Access and Admissions Trustee* - [admissions@magdjcr.co.uk](mailto:admissions@magdjcr.co.uk)

*Outreach Resources* - <http://www.magd.ox.ac.uk/studying-here/outreach/>

*Chat to our students online!* - <http://www.magd.ox.ac.uk/studying-here/as-an-undergraduate/chat-with-the-students/>

*Oxplore* - [oxplore.org](http://oxplore.org)

## **Acknowledgements:**

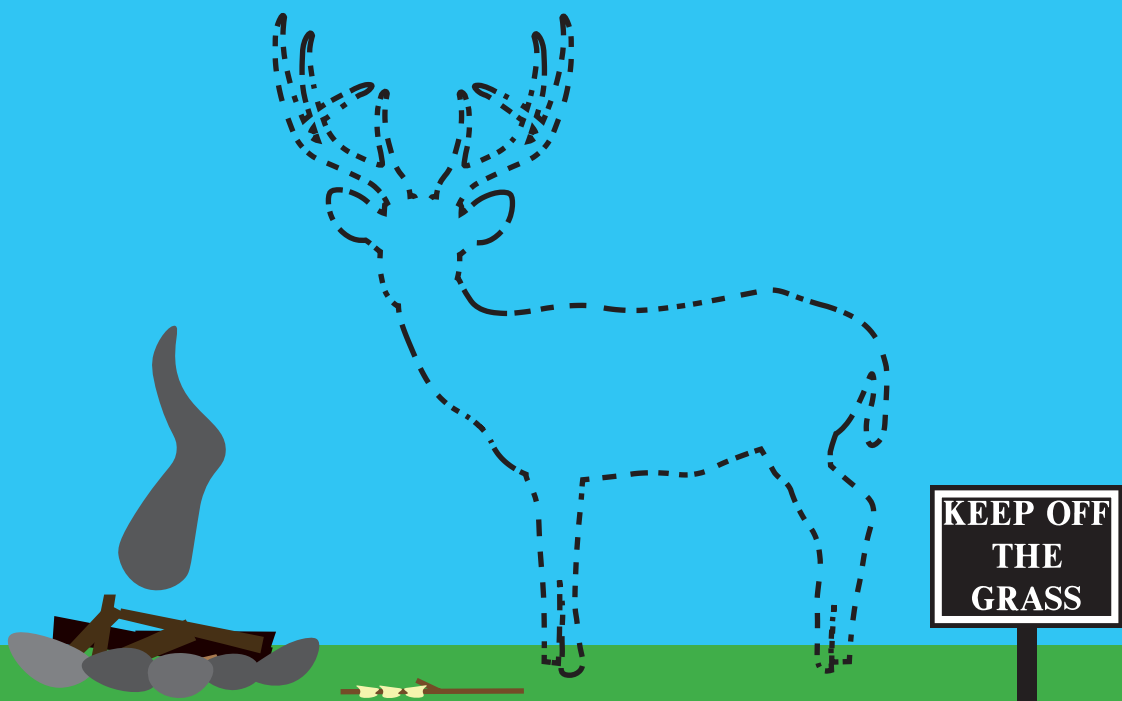
Illustrations and graphic design by *Will Harris*

Text and photographs by *Jessica Tunks*

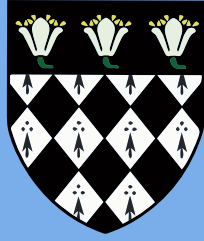
*All information was accurate as of June 2023*

**We hope you found this little snippet of Magdalen helpful! Check out the resources above for more information or come visit to experience Magdalen for yourself!**

**WE HOPE TO  
SEE YOU SOON!**







# TURN ME OVER!

